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ABSTRACT

This survey, based on a 95 0/0 response rate, determined that of all the podiatrists licensed in the state of Washington, 69 0/0 live within the state, 95 0/0 were actively employed in that profession, and almost all were in private practice. The primary work function of 83 0/0 was direct patient care, and over half of the respondents worked 40 to 49 hours per week. It was learned that podiatrists, as a group, are older than members of professions requiring similar training and are usually male. A list of nine references and two appendixes are included: a questionnaire and selected data tables. (AG)

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Podiatrists Licensed in Washington

MAY 1970

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DANIEL J. EVANS
GOVERNOR
WALLACE LANE, M.D., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR

All inquiries concerning the report and requests for data should be addressed to Health Manpower Project, Washington State Department of Health, 815, Smith Tower, Seattle, Washington 98104. Data were gathered in cooperation with the Division of Professional Licensing. The report was written by the Health Manpower Project's staff. The survey is considered a Pilot Study. Modifications in design and analyses are anticipated for future studies.

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SURVEY OF PODIATRISTS LICENSED IN WASHINGTON STATE

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The Practice of Podiatry

Podiatry is the health profession concerned with the care of the human foot. The podiatrist is responsible for the examination, diagnosis and treatment, both medically and surgically, of its diseases, injuries and defects.

Medical doctors, aware of the significant role played by podiatry, refer patients to podiatrists and consult with them in accredited hospitals and other institutions. The podiatrist in turn, when he recognizes systemic disease from early signs appearing in the feet, refers the patient to the appropriate medical doctor.

The podiatrist is a vital member of the health care team and has joined in public health services. In 1964 the District of Columbia Health Department became the first municipal health department in the United States to establish full-time podiatry clinics as part of its services (see reference 1).

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

This report is based on information gathered at the time of license renewals, (May 12, 1969), through the Division of Professional Licensing, Olympia, Washington. Ninety five percent (86) of all podiatrists licensed as of January 5, 1970 returned their research forms with their renewals.

Sixty nine percent of the podiatrists licensed in Washington were living within the state. Those residing outside Washington most frequently lived in other West Coast states.

Podiatrists living in Washington resided in the more populous counties, with 42% living in King County. According to the data, there were no podiatrists in 23 counties.

Employment Characteristics: Ninety five percent of the podiatrists were actively employed in their profession and 5% were retired. Nearly all employed podiatrists were self-employed in private practice; a small percentage was employed by public and private agencies. Nearly all of the podiatrists performed primarily direct patient care; 6% indicated their major work function as administration. Slightly over half of the respondents worked 40 to 49 hours per week. Over a quarter worked 39 hours or less.

Background Characteristics: Podiatrists were compared to members of professions similar in educational prerequisites and duration. It was suggested that podiatrists constitute an older group. For example, 77% of the podiatrists and only 47% of the veterinarians living in Washington

were over 45 years of age (a profession similar in training requirements). As would be expected, over half (53%) of the professional podiatric degrees (i.e. Doctor of Podiatric Medicine) were awarded before 1950. Another third were awarded in the years 1950 through 1959. More podiatrists were graduated from the Illinois College of Podiatry than any other institution.

No significant differences among the 86 podiatrists licensed in Washington were found on the basis of the state of actual residence.

Additional topics are discussed in this report and selected data tables are presented in Appendix B. More detailed information may be obtained by contacting the Health Manpower Project staff directly.

Methodology

This report is based on information gathered through the Department of Motor Vehicles, Division of Professional Licensing, at the time of licensure renewals. Data analysis was performed by the staff of the Health Manpower Project, Washington State Department of Health.

On May 12, 1969, 94 research forms were mailed with license renewals to all podiatrists licensed in the State of Washington. By January 5, 1970, 91 podiatrists had renewed their licenses for 1970. Eighty six returned their research forms with their license renewals. This represents 95% of all podiatrists licensed by that date.

The survey upon which the report is based is considered a pilot study. Modifications in the questionnaire will be made in the 1970 survey of podiatrists licensed in Washington state. The figures in this report may be considered as representative for the counties and the state. Specific restrictions on the data will be stated.

Background Information on the Profession of Podiatry

The work "chiropody" was first used in 1768 and referred to the care of the human hand and foot. In 1917, the term "podiatry" came into use and was felt by many doctors to more adequately describe increasing specialization in foot care. The two words are now used interchangeably, but the official term is podiatry. In 1912 the National Association of Chiropodists, now known as the American Podiatry Association, was organized and the first schools founded in New York and Illinois. The required length of schooling was then only about nine months and a high school education was not a pre-requisite (see reference 2 and 3).

Today there are five colleges of podiatry. They are located in San Francisco, Philadelphia, Chicago, New York and Cleveland. Applicants to a college of podiatry must have completed two years of college work with prerequisite studies in zoology, biology, chemistry and physics. More and more students are earning their baccalaureate degrees before beginning their podiatric training. In 1964 the American Podiatry Association survey found 70% of the beginning students in one college and 30% in another to have earned such degrees (see reference 6).

In the four years of professional training in podiatry, the student pursues courses in anatomy, bacteriology, dermatology, x-ray therapy and many other specialized courses such as podo-pediatrics and forensic podiatry. All colleges of podiatry offer an elective clinical internship for students desiring to practice in states with such a requirement.

There are insufficient data available to establish national trends in the training of podiatrists. At least one college of podiatry, the California College of Podiatric Medicine in San Francisco, has expanded its total enrollment from 176 students in 1966-67 to 210 in 1969-70. The Health Manpower Project staff was informed by the college that there will be 47 graduates in June, 1970 and 60 students are anticipated to graduate one year later. In 1967, only 25 students were graduated (see reference 7).

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Geographic Distribution of Podiatrists Licensed in Washington

Of the 86 respondents, 59 (69%) indicated their residence was in Washington State. The remaining respondents lived in another West Coast state (22%) or one of the midwest or eastern states (9%).

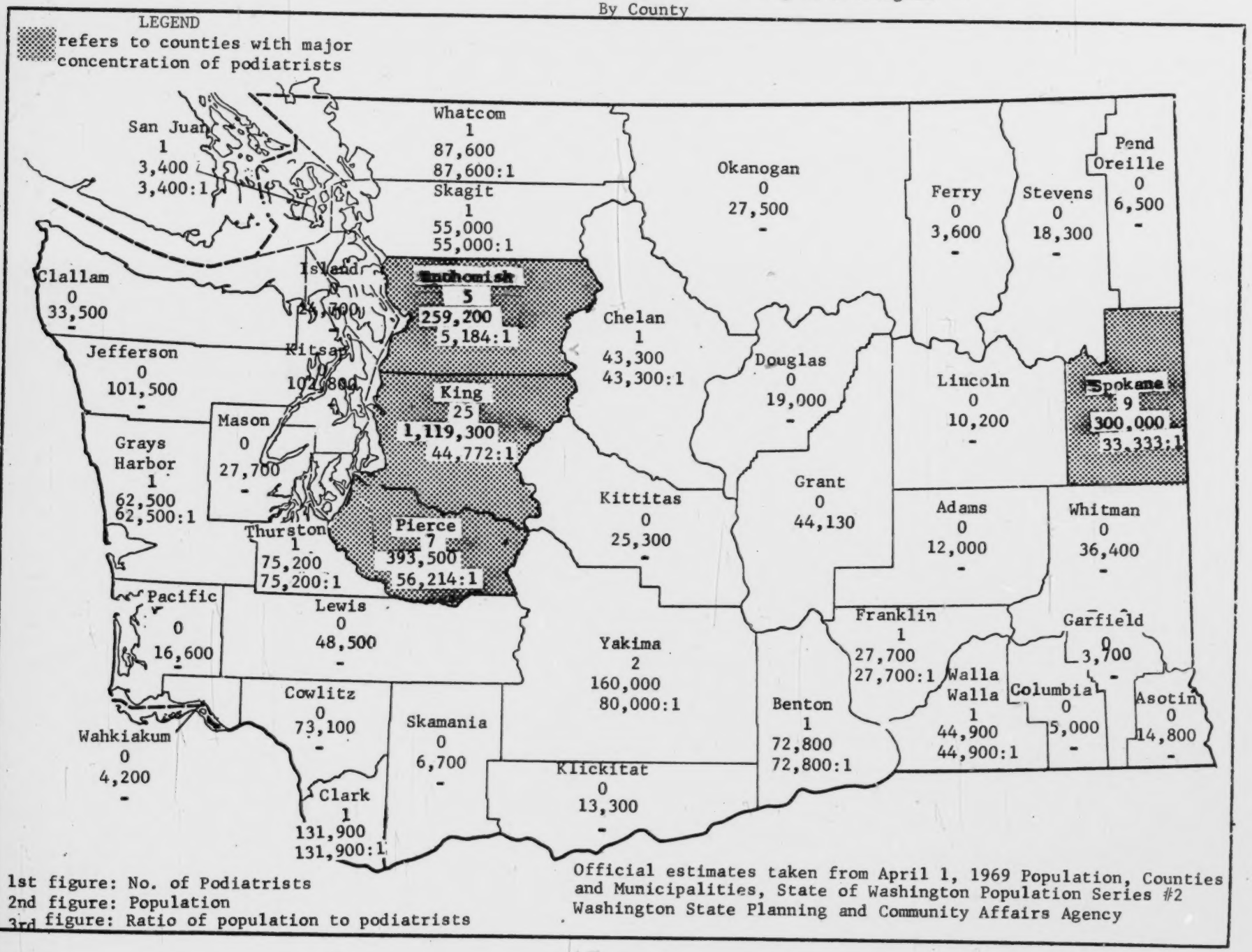
Podiatrists residing in Washington were primarily located in populous counties; 42% living in King County proper. According to the data, there were no podiatrists in 23 counties. Distribution of podiatrists residing in Washington, by county, can be seen in the accompanying map.

The total number of respondents (86) will be discussed as one group, except where differences arose according to the state of residence. In this case, podiatrists residing in Washington (59) will be considered separately from those residing outside the state (27).

Patterns in Employment

Nearly all professionally active podiatrists licensed in Washington were in private practice. A small percentage was employed by public or private agencies. Five percent of the respondents were retired. This can be seen in Figure 1.

Number of Podiatrists Licensed and Residing in Washington
By County

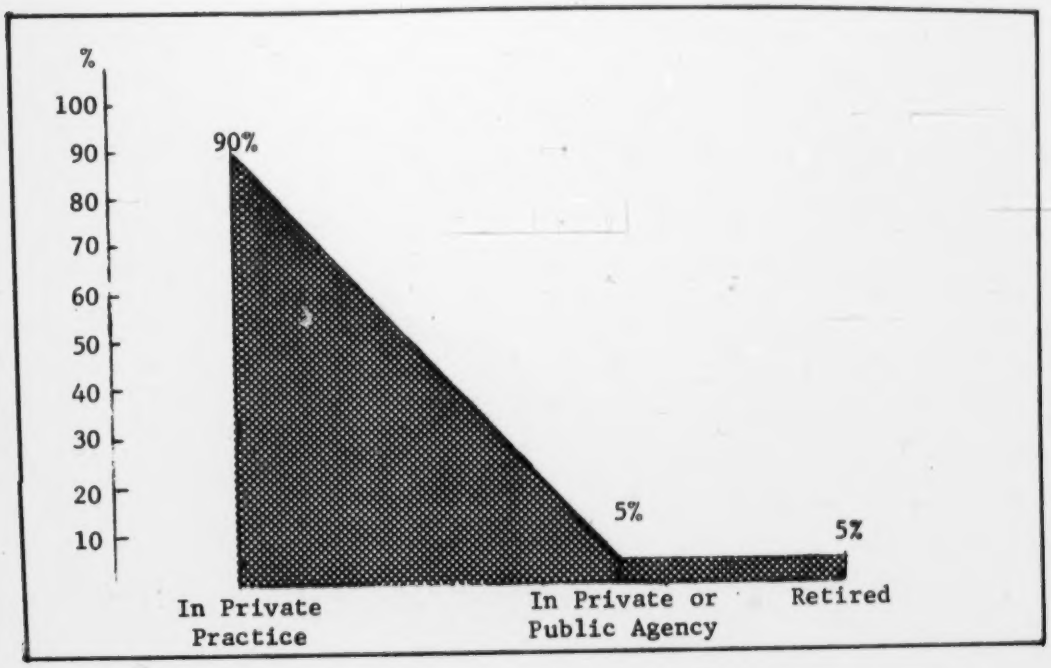

LEGEND
refers to counties with major concentration of podiatrists
San Juan 1 3,400 3,400:1
Whatcom 1 87,600 87,600:1
Skagit 1 55,000 55,000:1
Okanogan 0 27,500 -
Ferry 0 3,600 -
Stevens 0 18,300 -
Pend Oreille 0 6,500 -
Clallam 0 33,500 -
Island 0 24,700 -
Snohomish 5 259,200 5,184:1
Chelan 1 43,300 43,300:1
Douglas 0 19,000 -
Lincoln 0 10,200 -
Spokane 9 300,000 33,333:1
Jefferson 0 101,500 -
Kitsap 0 102,800 -
King 25 1,119,300 44,772:1
Mason 0 27,700 -
Grays Harbor 1 62,500 62,500:1
Grant 0 44,130
Kittitas 0 25,300 -
Adams 0 12,000 -
Whitman 0 36,400 -
Thurston 1 75,200 75,200:1
Pierce 7 393,500 56,214:1
Pacific 0 16,600 -
Lewis 0 48,500 -
Yakima 2 160,000 80,000:1
Franklin 1 27,700 27,700:1
Garfield 0 3,700 -
Walla Walla 1 44,900 44,900:1
Columbia 0 5,000 -
Asotin 0 14,800 -
Cowlitz 0 73,100 -
Skamania 0 6,700 -
Benton 1 72,800 72,800:1
Wahkiakum 0 4,200 -
Klickitat 0 13,300 -
Clark 1 131,900 131,900:1

1st figure: No. of Podiatrists
2nd figure: Population
3rd figure: Ratio of population to podiatrists

Official estimates taken from April 1, 1969 Population, Counties and Municipalities, State of Washington Population Series #2
Washington State Planning and Community Affairs Agency

Figure 1

Employment Status of Podiatrists Licensed in Washington

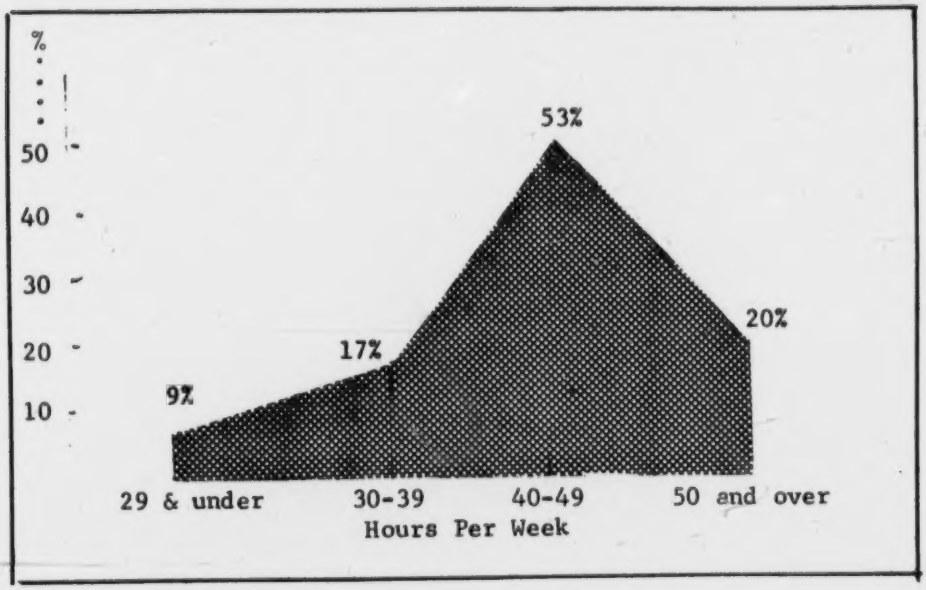


Work Functions: Eighty seven percent of the licensed podiatrists engaged in at least some direct patient care and 83% indicated this was their major work function. Nineteen percent indicated they were involved in administrative duties, 6% listed administration as their major work function. Eleven percent failed to respond to this question. Several podiatrists specified they were engaged in research but none indicated this was their major work function.

Length of Work Week: Slightly over half of the respondents worked between 40 and 49 hours in a typical work week. Over a quarter worked less than 40 hours a week. Distribution of replies regarding the length of the typical work week can be seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2.

Length of Typical Work Week Among Podiatrists
Licensed in Washington



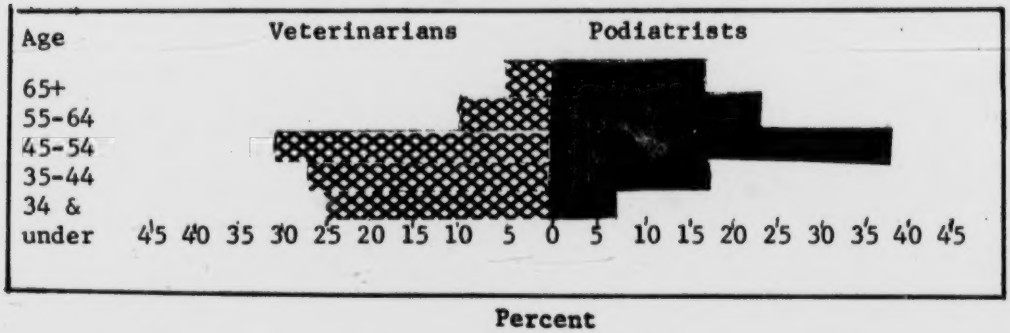
Employment and Residence: No significant differences were found among the podiatrists when their state of residence was considered. Several slight trends were found among Washington residents. For example, the only podiatrists indicating administration rather than patient care as their major work function were residing in the more populous counties such as King, Pierce and Spokane counties. In addition, podiatrists earning degrees prior to 1960 were more likely to be engaged in administration than were their more recently educated counterparts. Experience would seem to be a factor accounting for this finding. Podiatrists educated before 1960 also worked fewer hours per typical work week. Such comparisons are based on an extremely small number (the 59 podiatrists living in Washington) and only suggest possible trends.

Background Characteristics

Age Distribution: Compared to other medical professions on which data are available, podiatrists tend to be an older occupational group. Members of the professions of podiatry, dentistry, and veterinary medicine are predominately male and have similar educational prerequisites and length of training. Half of the podiatrists licensed in Washington were age 50 or younger, but 50% of dentists in the Western United States are age 47 and younger [1] and 50% of veterinarians licensed in Washington are under the age of 44. The American Association of Podiatry also concluded from their 1964 survey that the podiatry profession was composed of older practitioners and suggests that the number of recruits to the profession has declined. The Association notes that both the prerequisites and the length of podiatric training have increased which may affect the number and age of new graduates. (see reference 6)

A comparison of the age distribution in the professions of veterinary medicine and podiatry is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3.
Comparison of Age Distribution in the Podiatry Profession and in the Medical Veterinary Profession



[1] Age specific information on Washington dentists was not available at the time this report was written.

Professional Education: Nearly half of the respondents had earned the Podiatric Degree of Doctor of Science (DSC) and 41% held the degree of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM). The remaining respondents held other preparatory degrees or a combination of the above.

About half (52%) of the professional degrees were awarded before 1950, and a third (32%) between 1950 and 1959. This is similar to national trends (see reference 5).

Most podiatric colleges no longer grant the Doctor of Science degree. This is shown in the survey findings: 71% of the Doctor of Science degrees were granted prior to 1950.

The largest percentage of professionals graduating from one institution (42%) were educated at the Illinois College of Podiatry. Few differences were found among podiatrists living within or outside Washington according to their training location. Podiatrists residing in Washington were only slightly more likely to have earned their degree from the California College of Podiatric Medicine than those residing outside Washington.

Thirteen (15%) of the podiatrists licensed in Washington had received Baccalaureate or advanced degrees.

Post Graduate Education: The majority of the respondents reported academic coursework within the last five years; 31% one to three such courses and 34% four or more.

Over 80% had attended informal courses such as workshops or short-term courses. Twenty nine percent had participated in one to three such

courses and 55% four or more. Eleven of the 86 podiatrists had taken no short-term courses. Of these, 10 resided in Washington, which may suggest that fewer opportunities exist in this state.

Licensure: Eighty five percent of the podiatrists licensed in Washington obtained their licensure through examination. Thirteen percent were licensed through reciprocity from another state. Another 2% failed to specify their method of licensure. Under reciprocity agreement professionals licensed in another state or who have passed national examinations in their field are given partial or full credit in Washington for their performance.

Seventy seven percent (66) of the podiatrists licensed in Washington were also licensed in at least one other state. These other states were primarily on the West Coast and midwest regions. Thirty two percent of those licensed in another state were licensed in California alone.

A 1970 survey is planned covering additional areas of manpower information on this important health occupation. Greater detail will be obtained on the podiatrists' opinions of continuing education availability and subject content. Information will be obtained on the extent of patient referrals between physicians (M.D. and D.O.) and podiatrists, a topic first explored in the American Podiatry Association's survey in 1964. (see reference 6)

References

1. "Podiatry Services at Clinics of a Local Health Department. Experience of District of Columbia." Nina B. Woodside and Jerome Shapiro. Public Health Reports, 82: 389-394, 1967

2. Foot Care in the State of Washington, brochure published by the Washington State Podiatry Association, May, 1969.

3. Health Resources Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Public Health Service, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, PH Pub. No. 1509, 1968 Ed.

4. Your Career in Podiatry, California College of Podiatric Medicine, San Francisco, California, not dated.

5. "Responsibilities in Comprehensive Health Care--The Role of the Podiatry College" by Leonard A. Levy. Journal of the American Podiatry Association, 59:11-14, 1969.

6. "1964 Survey of the Podiatry Profession" by Lloyd E. Blauch. JAPA, 55:201-208, 1965.

7. Interview with William Moalem, B.S., M.A., D.P.M., Assistant Professor of Public Health, California College of Podiatric Medicine, San Francisco, California, April, 1970.

8. Health Manpower, United States, 1965-67, Vital and Health Statistics, Data on National Health Resources, National Center for Health Statistics, Series 14, Number 1, 26-32 U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare

9. Veterinarians Licensed in Washington, Health Manpower Project Washington State Department of Health, March, 1970.

APPENDICES

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Research Form (Pod.D. 1969) PLEASE RETURN WITH LICENSURE FORM

Name_____

Professional Address: State_____City_____County_____Zip Code____

PLEASE CIRCLE NUMBER PRECEDING A STATEMENT OR FILL IN REPLY WHERE INDICATED

FILL IN BOTH FRONT AND REVERSE SIDES OF FORM

A. Age_____

B. 1. Male 2. Female

C. Professional Education: _____ _____
Degree Earned Year

_____
City and State of Granting Institution

Degree(s) Other than Podiatric_____
_____

D. Within the Last Five Years, How Many of the Following Courses Have You Attended:

Academic courses:
1. None
2. One to three
3. Four or more

Short-term Courses or Workshops:
1. None
2. One to three
3. Four or more

PLEASE CONTINUE ON REVERSE SIDE →

E. Podiatric License in Washington Granted by:
1. Examination
2. Reciprocity Through which state? _____

F. Licensed as Podiatrist in Other States:
1. No
2. Yes (Specify) _____

G. Licensed in Another Occupation or Discipline:
1. No
2. Yes (Specify) _____

H. Are You Currently Employed in a Profession Other than Podiatry?
1. No 2. Yes (Specify)_____

I. Are You Currently:
1. Self-employed as private practitioner
2. Employed by Governmental Agency (Specify which)_____
3. Employed by Private Agency (Specify which)_____
4. Retired
5. Other (Specify)_____

J. Please circle number preceding your primary work function and indicate number of hours during a typical work week engaged in each of these functions: Hours per week
1. Direct patient care _____
2. Administration _____
3. Research _____
4. Other (Specify) _____ _____

SELECTED TABLES ON PODIATRISTS LICENSED IN WASHINGTON

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Table 1.
Podiatrists Licensed in Washington, by State of Residence

State	Number	Percent
Arizona	2	2.3
California	9	10.5
Idaho	3	3.5
Minnesota	1	1.2
Nevada	1	1.2
New York	2	2.3
Oregon	7	8.1
Washington	59	68.6
Canada	1	1.2
No Response	1	1.2
Total	86	100.0

Table 2.
Podiatrists Licensed and Living in Washington, by County

County	Number	Percent
Benton	1	1.7
Chelan	1	1.7
Clark	1	1.7
Franklin	1	1.7
Grays Harbor	1	1.7
King	25	42.3
Kitsap	1	1.7
Pierce	7	11.9
San Juan	1	1.7
Skagit	1	1.7
Snohomish	5	8.5
Spokane	9	15.2
Thurston	1	1.7
Walla Walla	1	1.7
Whatcom	1	1.7
Yakima	2	3.4
Total	59	100.0

PATTERNS IN EMPLOYMENT

TABLE 3.
Current Employment Status of Podiatrists* Licensed in Washington

Employment Status	Number	Percent
Self-employed	75	90.4
Agencies and other	4	4.8
Retired	4	4.8
Total	83	100.0

* This table is computed for a figure which excludes the non response.

TABLE 4.
Major Work Function of Podiatrists Licensed in Washington

Major Work Function	Number	Percent
Direct Patient Care	71	82.6
Administration	5	5.8
No Response	10	11.6
Total	86	100.0

TABLE 5.
Length of Typical Work Week of Podiatrists* Licensed in Washington

Hours Per Week	Number	Percent
29 and under	7	9.3
30-39	13	17.3
40-49	40	53.4
50 and over	15	20.0
Total	75	100.0

* This table is computed for a figure which excludes the non response.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Table 6.
Podiatric Degree Earned by Podiatrists
Licensed in Washington

Degree	Number	Percent
D.S.C.	42	48.8
D.P.M.	35	40.7
Combination of Both Degrees	5	5.8
Other	2	2.3
No Response	2	2.3
Total	86	100.0

Table 7.
Year Podiatric Degree Was Earned by Podiatrists
Licensed in Washington

Year	Number	Percent
Prior to 1950	44	51.1
1950-59	27	31.4
1960 and after	15	17.5
Total	86	100.0

Table 8.
State Granting Podiatric Degree of Podiatrists
Licensed in Washington

State	Number	Percent
California	29	33.7
Illinois	36	41.8
Ohio	9	10.5
New York	4	4.7
Other	5	5.8
No Response	3	3.5
Total	86	100.0

LICENSURE

Table 9.
Manner In Which Licensed Was Granted in Washington

Manner	Number	Percent
Examination	73	84.9
Reciprocity	11	12.8
No Response	2	2.3
	86	100.0

Table 10.
Number of Other Statesin Which Podiatrists,
Licensed in Washington, Are Licensed

Number of States	Number	Percent
1	11	12.8
2-3	49	57.0
4 or more	6	7.0
No Response	20	23.2
	86	100.0

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Table 11.
Number of Academic Courses Taken By
Podiatrists Licensed in Washington

Courses Taken	Number	Percent
None	24	27.9
1-3	27	31.4
4 or more	29	33.7
No Response	6	7.0
	86	100.0

Table 12.
Number of Short-term Courses or Workshops Taken By
Podiatrists Licensed in Washington

Courses Taken	Number	Percent
None	12	14.0
1-3	25	29.1
4 or more	47	54.6
No Response	2	2.3
	86	100.0

Table 13.
Number of Short-term Courses or Workshops Taken by Podiatrists
Licensed in Washington, by State of Residence

State	None		1-3		4+		No Response		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Arizona	0	0	0	0	2	100.0	0	0	2	100.0
California	1	11.1	3	33.3	5	55.6	0	0	9	100.0
Idaho	0	0	0	0	3	100.0	0	0	3	100.0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	1	100.0	0	0	1	100.0
Nevada	0	0	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0
New York	0	0	0	0	2	100.0	0	0	2	100.0
Oregon	0	0	3	42.9	3	42.9	1	14.3	7	100.0
Washington	10	16.9	18	30.5	30	50.8	1	1.7	59	100.0
Canada	0	0	0	0	1	100.0	0	0	1	100.0
No Response	1	100.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0